TASK FORCE RUSSIA -- BIWEEKLY REPORT 1-14 AUGUST 1992 3RD REPORT

TASK FORCE RUSSIA (POW/MIA)

REPORT TO THE U.S. DELEGATION, U.S.-RUSSIAN JOINT COMMISSION ON POW/MIAs

14 AUGUST 1992

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY This is the third report by Task Force Russia to the US Delegation of the US-Russian Joint Commission on POW/MIAs. It covers the activities of the Task Force for the period from 31 July to 14 August 1992. This report consists of an introduction, a general analysis of the documents received, an analysis of the documents, a summary of significant interviews, a summary of significant correspondence to the Moscow Office, and an update on administrative issues. It ends with several conclusions and recommendations.

Handling Instructions

This report has been prepared for the use of the Commission in pursuit of our mission. While it is an unclassified document in accordance with Department of Defense classification guidelines for POW/MIA information, it nonetheless contains casualty-related information and should not be disseminated outside of Commission channels pending efforts by the Department of Defense Executive Agent to locate and notify as many next of kin as feasible.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is the third report prepared in support of the US Delegation to the Joint US-Russian Commission on POW/MIAs (referred to hereafter as the Commission). In this report documents collected by and interviews conducted for Task Force Russia in the period from 31 July to 14 August 1992 are reviewed in detail. The Analysis and Production Unit, Task Force Russia (POW/MIA), Headquarters Department of the Army, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel prepared this report pursuant to the Army's role as the Department of Defense Executive Agent for POW/MIA affairs in support of the Commission.

2. This report consists of six major parts. The first is a general analysis of the documents that the Task Force has received. The next section is a detailed analysis of the documents. A summary of significant interviews comprises the third section. Then there is a summary of significant correspondence to the Moscow Office. There is a short discussion of administrative issues in the fourth section. Finally, there is a discussion of conclusions and recommendations.

3. While there is no direct evidence from the documents and interviews that there are unaccounted for American service members still alive in the former Soviet Union, several elderly civilian American citizens have been found. The Russians, however, did provide a list of seven individuals they identified as American servicemen who had defected to the Soviet zone of occupation during the Cold War. Taken together, the documents and interviews suggest numerous points for follow-up.

II. GENERAL ANALYSIS [DOCUMENTS]

1. In the course of the past two weeks, Task Force Russia has received six batches of documents. All the documents were passed to TFR representatives in Moscow by officials of the Russian government.

2. Batches TFR 5 and 6 were passed to Task Force Russia by the Office of the Executive Secretary on 31 July 1992 after having been received from the Russian side during earlier meetings.

3. Batch TFR 7 of documents was given to TFR on 31 July 1992 by General Dmitri Volkogonov, Chairman of the Russian delegation to the Commission. This group of documents consists of a list of 39 Americans who in 1954 were still on the territory of the former Soviet Union. A few days later the list was published in the Russian newspaper **Izvestiia**. Subsequently, it was determined that none of the individuals listed were American servicemembers. Most were born in the United States and returned as children or young adults to Poland, Lithuania, or Byelorussia in the late 1930s. When the Second World War broke out, they were swept up in the maelstrom of the war.

4. Several of the individuals of the list are still alive. Some are now living in the United States. **LINETTE KESSELMAN**, for instance, lives in Brooklyn, New York. **IRINA BERKO** is in a nursing-home near Pittsburgh, and **ALDONA MARSHALL SIMANAVICHUS** lives in Lanham, Maryland. At least two of the individuals on the list - **MICHAEL SEMKO** and **JOHN YAREMA** - are living in the Ukraine.

5. Batch TFR 8 was passed to TFR on 7 August 1992 by General Volkogonov. These documents consist of two lists of names, a press release, and four documents from the archives. The first list consists of the names of nine Americans who were in the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Like the earlier list, none of the individuals were American servicemembers.

6. On the second list were the names of seven individuals identified by the Russians as American servicemen who had defected to the Soviet Zone of Occupation during the Cold War. A preliminary assessment of this list bears this out.

7. Accompanying the release of these documents was a Russian letter-of-explanation/press release that created a minor sensation in the Western press. The Russians claimed that among the documents they uncovered in the archives was a letter from the Deputy Minister of State Security Abakumov to Joseph Stalin, requesting permission to execute without trial an unnamed - American citizen then held in prison. The note then went on to suggest that the Soviets claim that the unnamed person died of illness. The request, according to the press release, was approved. This document was not passed to our team.

8. Included among the 7 August 1992 batch are four documents from the archives. The first document is to the Central Committee from an unknown source and provides a summary of the number of NATO servicemen who defected to the Soviet Zone in Germany as of 1952. The second document is from a KGB official to the head of prisons for the MVD requesting information on several imprisoned Americans. The last two documents provide more details on the **DRAGULA** and **BERKO** families mentioned in the 31 July 1992 batch of documents.

9. The TFR 9 batch of documents was delivered to TFR by Russian Lieutenant Colonel Selgei Osipov. It is a list of ten Americans who were imprisoned and released during the period from 1946 to 1956. None appear to be unaccounted for American servicemen.

10. The TFR 10 batch of documents was passed to TFR on 13 August 1992. It is a copy of a letter from

the Russian television company Ostankino to the Russian Ministry of Security requesting their help in the search for several American servicemen rumored to be in Russian prisons.

III. ANALYSIS

Batch TFR 5

GENERAL DESCRIPTION. This batch consists of 23 pages passed to the US side and subsequently provided to Task Force Russia on 31 July. Three documents date from 1944/5 and are instructions concerning the support and administration of Allied prisoners of war and civilian detainees by the Soviet Ministry of Defense and the Soviet NKVD. No specific American. servicemen are discussed in these documents. The last set of documents consists of copies of file cards on eight POWs. These individuals were alleged to have been members of the German army during WWII, although some of the individuals apparently were born in the USA. However, the names of the these persons do not match those of any unaccounted for US servicemen according to a check of records by the US Army Mortuary Affairs Office.

1. TFR 5 - 1 through 5.

a. Title: This document is entitled "INSTRUCTIONS to the Chief of the Department of Repatriation Affairs of the Military Council of the Front Concerning the Collection, Accounting, Support, and Administration of Allied Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees of Allied Governments." The document is dated 31 January 1945 and was addressed to the deputy director for repatriation affairs, General-Lieutenant Golubev, and signed by General-Major Vasilov and Colonel Mazunov.

b. Observations: The document contains detailed instructions concerning the care and administration of Allied servicemembers and civilians. These instructions include separating the servicemembers and civilians by sex, race, and nationality. All of these persons are to be provided food, clothing, and medical care as necessary. Officers are to be accorded due respect. Servicemembers are to be organized into units with the senior person designated. Civilians are to be organized into groups of tens and hundreds with a chief or leader designated. The Allied military personnel are to allowed to set up a system of internal control for welfare and discipline. The Chief of Repatriation Affairs is authorized to put Allied personnel to work to improve the living conditions of the collection points. "Enemy" propaganda is specifically prohibited from being conducted. The document does not discuss specific procedures for repatriation of these persons to Allied control. The document does not address the status of any individual Allied or American servicemember.

c. Suggested Follow-up: As noted in previous reports, the archives of the Departments for Repatriation Affairs of the Ministries of Defense and Internal Affairs appear to contain potentially valuable information concerning the fates of American servicemembers. Our Russian colleagues should continue to review these archives. However, to maximize their effectiveness and to minimize Russian anxieties that the US delegation is on a "fishing expedition", we should provide the Russians as much detailed information as possible on our unaccounted for servicemembers.

2. TFR 5-6 through 11

a. Title: This document, marked SECRET, is entitled "INSTRUCTIONS for the Commandatura of the Collection Points for the Repatriation of Prisoners of War and Civilians of Allied Governments Liberated by the Red Army." The document, dated 31 January 1945, is from General-Major Basilov and addressed to General-Lieutenant Golubev of the Directorate for Repatriation Affairs and is authenticated by Colonel Maznov.

b. Observations: The instructions in this document largely parallel the instructions given in documents TFR 5-1 through 6.

c. Suggested Follow-up: Same as for TFR 5-1 through 6.

2. TFR 5 - 12.

a. Title: This document is addressed to General-Lieutenant Golubev of the Directorate for Repatriation Affairs and is from the a Deputy People's Commissar for Internal Affairs of the USSR of the NKVD, Commissar 2nd Rank Chernikov(?). The document appears to be dated 31 November 1944.

b. Observations: The document is generally illegible. It appears to address the status of camps of Allied prisoners of war administered by the NKVD. It does not name or appear to address the status of any individual American serviceman.

c. Suggested follow-up: Query our Russian colleagues for a more legible copy of this document.

3. TFR 5 - 13/14.

a. Title: This document, marked "SECRET", is addressed to the Chief of the Department for Prisoner of War Affairs or the Front with a copy for the chief of directorate for rear services support for the front. It is from the deputy chief of the NKVD, USSR, General-Lieutenant Petrov and dated 15 February 1945.

b. Observations: The document contains instructions similar to those in TFR 5 - 1/6 and TFR 5 -7/12 to safeguard allied prisoners of war freed by the Red Army and conduct them to collection points. Italian soldiers are to be kept in separate groups from prisoners of war of other nationalities. The document does not name or appear to address the status of any individual American servicemen.

c. Suggested follow-up: Continue to request our Russian colleagues to fully investigate the archives of the NKVD specific information concerning American servicemen.

4. TFR 5 - 15.

a. Title: This page is addressed to Comrade O. N. Krugkhov and contains the dates 13 August and 26 June 1945. The originator is not marked.

b. Observations: The document is largely illegible. It appears to be a list of the numbers of allied prisoners of war under Soviet control as of the summer of 1945. For the entry "Americans" the number "40" is typed. Like most of the documents received by our team to date, it lacks archival citations.

c. Suggested follow-up: Request a more legible copy of the document from our Russian colleagues. Request that documents passed contain appropriate archival citations, to include name of holding, record group, file, box, or folder, as appropriate.

5. TFR 5 - 16a/b through 23a/b.

a. Title: These documents are copies of eight POW record cards presented to the Joint Commission in Moscow.

b. Observations: The eight persons identified on the cards allegedly served in the German army and died in Soviet POW camps during or immediately after WWII. The places of birth of four individuals are in the USA. The place of birth of a fifth individual may be in the USA.

c. Suggested follow-up: US Army Mortuary Affairs had determined that none of the eight names appear on the lists of servicemen who died, or were presumed dead from WWII. No further follow-up is required for these persons. Our Russian colleagues who located these cards should be urged to continue to review their archival holdings for information specifically concerning American servicemen.

Batch TFR 6.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION. This batch consists of 15 pages divided into documents marked Exhibit No.

1, Exhibit No. 2, and Exhibit No. 7. All three exhibits are lists of names of American servicemen.

1. TFR 6 - 1/2.

a. Title: This document, undated, but apparently prepared in 1992 for the Joint Commission, marked as Exhibit No. 1, is entitled "American Citizens, Prisoners of War, Internees, and Missing in Action During the Second World War, Whose Fate is Unknown". The originator of the document is not given.

b. Observations: This document provides a list of 35 names divided into the categories of "prisoners of war" and "internees." Those two categories are subdivided into subcategories each of "fled," "fate unknown," and "dead, place of burial not established." A date of the last known information is listed by 25 of the names. These dates are generally in 1945, with the latest being 1947.

c. Suggested follow-up: This list of names will be checked to see if any of these persons is unaccounted for. Our Russian colleagues should be queried as to the originator of the document and their sources of information.

2. TFR 6 - 3/12.

a. Title: This document, marked Exhibit No. 2, entitled "List of American fliers, interned on the territory of the USSR during the Second World War." The document is undated and the originator is not given.

b. Observations: This document is a duplicate of TFR 2-12 through 21 which was analyzed in Task Force Russia's Initial Report dated 17 July 1992.

c. Suggested follow-up: No change from recommendation in our initial report.

3. TFR 6 - 13/14.

a. Title: This document, marked Exhibit No. 7, is entitled "Information on Flight Crews of Planes of the USA that Crashed on the Land (Territorial Waters) of the USSR in the Period of .he 'Cold War'." The document is undated and the originator is not given .

b. Observations:

1. TFR 6 - 14 and 15 lists the names of four air crews and notes a fifth airplane. One aircraft fell over the Baltic (apparently the Baltic Sea) in September, 1950. The document lists 10 persons in that crew and notes that the information was provided by the "American side." This data corresponds with incident 3 of the JCS Summary of Cold War Losses provided as Appendix C in the Initial Report.

2. A second aircraft fell in the Sea of Japan near the Kamchatka Peninsula on 13 June 1952 . The document lists 12 names in that crew and notes that the information was provided by the "American side." This data corresponds with incident 8 of the JCS summary.

3. A third plane was shot down on the island of Askold on 29 July 1952, where 1 of 17 persons was saved. The name of the person saved is not contained in the document. This information does not correspond with any incident on the JCS summary.

4. A fourth aircraft was shot down over the Kurile Islands on 7 October 1952. The document gives two names and notes that they were "found dead." This appears to be incident 6 of the JCS summary, however JCS notes eight persons not recovered.

5. A fifth plane was shot down in the region of Yerevan on 2 September 1958. The document gives six names and notes that the American side provided information that there were 17 persons on board. Two persons were taken prisoner and later turned over to the American side. One person's body was recovered and turned over to the American side. Three bodies were not recovered. This data corresponds with

incident 30 of the JCS summary except that JCS lists only six persons on board the plane.

c. Suggested follow-up: Our Russian colleagues should be urged to follow-up leads concerning the incidents listed above where not all US servicemen were recovered. We should provide them with the unclassified JCS list of Cold War shootdowns to assist them in their searches. Reference incident #3 above, we should requery the Russians to provide the name of the survivor.

4. TFR 6 - 15.

a. Title: This is a handwritten note, undated, and with no originator, with the title "Data of June 1953."

b. Observations: The note gives some very cryptic data with no reference to human beings, much less American servicemen. The entries are translated in full below.

1. Special camp no. 2 - 1 2. Special camp no. 3 - 1 3. Special camp no. 6 - 2 4. Teschanyi - 1 5. Verkhiye - Tralskaya - 1 prison 6. Vladimirskaya special - 1 prison MGB USSR

Special prison and psychiatric hospitals MVB - 4

c. Suggested follow-up: Reapproach the Russians and ask them to explain the data.

Batch TFR 7

GENERAL DESCRIPTION. This is a batch of 21 pages that was passed to TFR on 31 July 1992. It includes a list of 39 names of Americans who as of 1954 were in the Soviet Union. Attached is also a statement from General Dmitri Volkogonov, Chairman of the Russian Part of the Commission. There is a photocopy of the article from the 31 July 1992 issue of **Izvestiia** with the list of 39 names and General Volkogonov's statement. Finally there are sixteen pages of additional information on the 39 individuals who are identified as American citizens. None of the 39 individuals listed are unaccounted for American servicemen. As such, the matter is actually a US consular issue rather than a Commission matter. We have, nonetheless, included the readout of these documents in our report in the interests of comprehensiveness.

1. TFR 7-1 and -2

a. Title: TFR 7-l and -2 [List of Persons Listed as of 1954 as Soviet Citizens, Citizens of Third Countries, or Stateless Persons, but Having American Passports and Residence Permits. This is a typed list of 39 names of Americans who were resident in the Soviet Union as of 1954.

b. Observations: None of the 39 people listed are unaccounted for American servicemembers. In most cases, the individuals concerned were born in the United States, but returned to Poland, Lithuania, and Byelorussia as children or young adults with their parents in the late 1930s. When World War II broke out, they found themselves in the midst of great turmoil and through the twists of fate found themselves living in the Soviet Union. Most of the people on the list lived much of their adult lives in the Soviet Union. Some such as **MICHAEL SEMKO** and **JOXN YAREMA** remain in the Ukraine. Others like **ALDONA MARSHALL SIMANAVICHUS** and **IRINA BERKO** are living in the United States. According to press reports, several people on the list have died. While many of the people on the list are accounted for, there are still several whose whereabouts is unknown.

c. Suggested follow-up: The governments of the states of the former Soviet Union should be asked to assist in finding those individuals listed, but not accounted for.

2. TFR 7-3

a. Title: TFR 7-3 [Is It Possible that Citizens of the USA Are Still Alive on the Territory of the Former USSR?] This is a one page press release from General Dmitri Volkogonov, Chairman of the Russian part

of the Commission, that addresses details regarding the release of the 39 names.

b. Observations: In this press release, General Volkogonov notes that the security organs pressured the 39 people listed to renounce their American citizenship. Those that refused to renounce their citizenship were sentenced to 15-25 year prison terms. Those who did give up their citizenship still were imprisoned, but as Soviet citizens.

c. Suggested Follow-up: None 3. TFR 7-4

a. Title: TFR 7-4 ["Is It Possible that Citizens of the USA Are Still Alive on the Territory of the Former USSR?" 31 July 1992 **Izvestiia]**

b. Observations: This is a photocopy of the article that appeared in **Izvestiia** that presented the list of 39 names along with General Volkogonov's press release.

c. Suggested Follow-up: None

4. TFR 7-5 through 21

a. Title: [List] This document is marked TOP SECRET and is signed in April 1954 by Lieutenant General P. Fedotov, Chief of the Second Administration of the KGB. It lists the same 39 individuals named in the **Izvestiia** article, but provides more background information on people.

b. Observations: This document was not released to the public. It is, however, probably the document upon which the Russians based their public list of 39 individuals. There is slightly more background information each of the 39 people. This document also provides some details on the efforts of those listed to leave the Soviet Union for the United States.

c. Suggested Follow-up: Some of the information contained in these documents may provide leads to finding some of these individuals still in the former Soviet Union.

Batch TFR 8

GENERAL DESCRIPTION. This is a 32 page batch of documents. It consists of a list nine names of American citizens who could be found on the territory of the Soviet union during the Cold War. There is also a list of seven Americans who crossed into the Soviet zone of East Germany. A letter-of-explanation/press release follows, addressing only the list of nine names. [The list of seven was not released to the press by the Russian side.] There are also four documents from the archives. One of these documents is a report to the Politburo on the number of NATO soldiers who had crossed over into the Soviet zone in Austria and Germany. The next document is to the head of prisons requesting more information on American prisoners. The next two documents contain more detailed information on some of the families discussed in the list of 39 [TFR 7l].

1. TFR 8-1

a. Title: [An Additional List of Citizens of the USA Found on the Territory of the USSR During the Cold War] This is a typed document that is undated and unsigned.

b. Observations: This document is probably a contemporary compilation based on archival sources from the mid-1950s. None of the names on this list are those of unaccounted for American servicemen. The individuals on this list were probably in circumstances similar to those on the list of 39 [TFR 71, that is, the fortunes of war placed them on the territory of the former Soviet Union where authorities refused to recognize their US citizenship.

c. Suggested Follow-up: Consular efforts should be undertaken to ascertain whether any of these Americans are still alive and in the former Soviet Union. Also, as with many documents we are receiving,

we need to request the document's date and arch val origin.

2. TFR 8-2

a. Title: [Citizens of the USA Who Crossed Over Into the Soviet Zone of Occupation in Germany, Further Fate of Whom Is Unknown] This is an unsigned and undated document with the names of seven US citizens who crossed into East Germany.

b. Observations: This document is probably a contemporary compilation based on archival sources from the mid-1950s. A preliminary assessment indicates that several of the individuals on the list are deserters from the US Army who defected in the early 1950s.

c. Suggested Follow-up: We must first ascertain from US archives whether any of those on this list remain unaccounted for. The assistance of Russian and other CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] authorities should then be enlisted to locate any of the seven whose fate is unknown.

3. TFR 8-3 - 4

a. Title: [Citizens of the USA Still Living on the Territory of the Former USSR] This is an unsigned and undated letter-of- explanation/press release. It summarizes briefly the efforts of the Russian government to find pertinent information on American citizens in the archives.

b. Observations: When this letter-of-explanation/press release was released to the public, it cause a minor sensation in the Western press. According to this document, the Russians found a letter in their archives from Deputy Minister for State Security Abakumov to Joseph Stalin requesting permission to execute an unnamed American prisoner. The note went on to suggest that once the person was killed that his relatives would be told that he died of an illness. The request was approved. Also this press release notes that among the tactics used to pressure American citizens from pressing their claim for US citizenship was the threat of imprisonment and the taking away of children.

c. Suggested Follow-up: This letter-of-explanation does indicate that there is some information on American citizens to be found in the archives of the Ministry of Security of Russia. Hence, the Task Force should request that a major and thorough effort be made to investigate this archive. We should, however, remind the Russians of our primary goal of obtaining information on POW/MIA personnel, rather than on all US citizens.

4. TFR 8-5 - 6

a. Title: [To the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (Bolshevik)] This is a document labeled TOP SECRET, Copy No. 2, dated 17 April 1952 and written by S. Iqnat'ev and A. Vasilevskii.

b. Observations: This document is a summary on the number of NATO soldiers who crossed over to the Soviet zone of occupation in Austria and Germany. It states that as of 10 January 1952 there were 46 soldiers from Western countries in the Soviet zone. Thirty of them, the majority, crossed over in 1951. Of these 46, 18 were American, 14 British, 13 French, and 1 Dutch. There were an additional 28 people who crossed over to the Soviet Zone between 1947 and 1952, but returned to West Germany. According to this document, 22 of the 46 were working in Bautzin in the southeastern GDR, 1 was missing, 5 were under criminal investigation, and 13 were undergoing screening.

c. Suggested Follow-up: The Russians should be requested to provide the names of those American soldiers in their custody at that time, as well as any information on their current whereabouts.

5. TFR 8-7 -8

a. Title: [To the Chief of the Prison Section of the MVD of the USSR] This is a TOP SECRET document

from the Chief of the Section of the Main Administration of the KGB, dated 27 November 1951. It requests information on the status of ten Americans held in Soviet prisons.

b. Observations: This letter was initiated by a request from the American Embassy for information on American citizens believed to be in the Soviet prison system. The KGB sent the list to the MVD and asked for further information. Several of the names on this list appear to be the same individuals listed on the list of 39 [TFR 7].

c. Suggested Follow-up: The Russians should be asked for additional information on the persons listed. In particular, the Russians should be requested to provide information on the current location and/or fate of those listed. However, this should be done by our Department of State colleagues, not by the POW/MIA team.

6. TFR 8-9 through 21

a. Title; [To the Deputy Chief of the 2nd Main Directorate of the KGB of the USSR] This document was written by the Chairman of the KGB for the Ukraine and dated 4 November 1954. This is a list of a number of Americans living in the Ukraine.

b. Observations: This list contains additional details on Americans living in the Ukraine as of 1954. None seem to be unaccounted for American servicemembers. A number of the names, such as **BERKO**, appeared on the list of 39 [TFR 7]. It appears that this document has been sanitized. There are several paragraphs that have been blocked out.

c. Suggested Follow-up: Based on the details provided in this document, an effort should be made by the Department of State to determine the fate of those listed.

7. TFR 8-22 through 32

a. Title: [To the Deputy Chief of the 2nd Main Administration of the KGB of the USSR] This is a document from the Chairman of the KGB of the Ukraine and dated 27 November 1954. It contains an additional list of Americans held in the Ukraine.

b. Observations: This list contains additional details on Americans living in the Ukraine in 1954. None seem to be unaccounted for American servicemembers. Several names, such as **DRAGULA,** appeared on the list of 39 [TFR 7]. This document has been sanitized with several paragraphs blocked out.

c. Suggested Follow-up: Based on the details found in this document, a consular effort should be made to determine the fate of those listed.

Batch TFR 9

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This batch consists of a single document two pages in length. It is from V.I. Orlov, an official in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In this document is a list of labor camps where Americans may have been held. There is also a discussion of the fate of the American **SIDNEY RAY SPARKS.** This document was passed to Colonel Saxe in the Moscow office of TFR by Russian Lieutenant Colonel Sergei Osipov. It was given to LTC Osipov by V.I. Orlov of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

1. TFR 9-1 - 2

a. Title: [List: About the Search for American Citizens Who Departed from Sentences in the Special ITL and Prisons During the Period from 1946 thru 1956] This document is undated, but appears to be a compilation of information from archives.

b. Observations: The first part of this document lists labor camps where Americans were held in the

period from 1945 thru 1956. The second part is a discussion of the fate of the American **SIDNEY RAY SPARKS**. The document claims that he was released from custody on 13 December 1956. The second page of this document is blurry and unreadable.

c. Suggested Follow-up: An effort should be made to check the records or the labor camps listed in this document for information on the fate of American citizens who may have served prison time in them. Also, we should request a legible copy of the second page.

Batch TFR 10

GENERAL DESCRIPTION. This is a batch of three 1992 documents, ten pages in length. The first is a copy of a letter from the First Deputy Chairman of the Ostankino Television Company to the Deputy Minister of Security of Russia requesting information on Americans reportedly seen in Soviet labor camps. The second is a letter from the Chief of the Main Information Center of the MVD to the Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Archival Affairs on the fate of an American named **CLIFFORD** alias **CHARLES BROWN.** The third document is an additional report from the MVD to the Committee on Archival Affairs that provides some additional details on 27 Americans held in Soviet labor camps. There is no indication that any of these individuals are unaccounted for American servicemembers.

1. TFR 10-1 through 5

a. Title: [Letter to Deputy Minister of Security of Russia Comrade Golushko N.M dated 17 June 1992] This is a letter from the First Deputy Chairman of the Ostankino Television Company G.A. [Name Illegible] to N.M. Golushko, Deputy Minister of Security of Russia, dated 17 June 1992. The letter provides the names of numerous Americans who were sighted in various Soviet labor camps over the last several decades. It requests that the Ministry help locate these people and/or provide information on their fates.

b. Observations: This document is potentially very valuable. The television producers at Ostankino seem to have stumbled upon a significant body of sighting of Americans in the Soviet labor camp system.

c. Suggested Follow-up: Working with our Russian delegation colleagues, we should contact the producers at Ostankino and follow up.

2. TFR 10-6

a. Title: [About the Search for Citizens of the USA]. This is a document from the Chief of the Main Information Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation to Vladimir Petrovich Kozlov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Archival Affairs Subordinate to the Government of the Russian Federation, dated 6 August 1992. This letter discusses the fate of **CLIFFORD,(BROWN, CHARLES)**.

b. Observations: This is a letter to the head of the archives testifying that based on a search of the records of the Main Information Center it has been determined that **CHARLES BROWN** alias **CLIFFORD**, an American citizen, was sentenced to 25 years of labor. He was sent to the Verkhne-Ural'sk prison and died there on 15 May 1953 as a result of tuberculosis and gastritis. Although he was buried in the region, the location of his grave is unknown.

c. Suggested Follow-up: Research the name in our archives. The Russians should be asked to make a thorough check of the records for the location of the grave.

3. TFR 10-7 through 10

a. Title: [Letter from G.L. Lezhikov, Chief of the Main Information Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation to V.P. Kozlov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Archival Affairs for the Government of the Russian Federation] This letter is dated 6 August 1992 and is a cover

letter followed by a list of 27 Americans.

b. Observations: This is a list of 27 individuals who had American passports and who as of 1954, could be found on the territory of the Soviet Union. None of those listed appear at first glance to be unaccounted for American servicemen. Several of the names on this list appear on the list of 39 [TFR 7].

c. Suggested Follow-up: Cross check the list with our records of unaccounted for servicemen. If they are ali civilians, Department of State should follow-up.

IV. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERVIEWS (31 July to 14 August 1992)

A. Interviews with Russian Citizens:

1. On 24 July 1992 (message received 14 August), Anatoly POPOV was interviewed for the second time by Jim Connell and Al Graham. POPOV had approached Mr. Graham for the first time in May and had initiated the second meeting after faxing information to Mr. Graham. In the first meeting POPOV stated that while serving a twelve year sentence in Noril'sk for airplane hijacking, guards told him there were American POWs in the prison. POPOV put forward a number of inappropriate projects he wanted to undertake as a paid employee of the Joint Commission. POPOV claimed to know a 50-year old Krasnoyarsk resident of German ancestry who, while in the military circa 1961-62, escorted two Americans from Vladivostok to Krasnoyarsk and then to Tobol'sk. POPOV had been out all night drinking prior to the 24 July meeting and reeked of alcohol. Ret 140611Z AUG 92

Action Taken and Recommended Follow-up: the POW/MIA Team cannot cooperate in the activities Popov proposes for obvious reasons and does not plan to contact him again. If he contacts the Team, he will be invited to the Joint Commission office at Ilyinka 12 for an interview with representatives of the Russian side of the Commission present. We will also reinforce our repeated guidance to the team that such unilateral interviews are not in our interest.

2. On 4 August 1992, Vladimir Yakovlevich VORONIN, a prisoner serving time for manslaughter, was interviewed in Semipalatinsk by a US representative. During an earlier prison sentence lasting from 1951 to 1953 in the Fifth Lagpunkt camp in Khabarovsk, he stated that Americans were sighted in this camp. To the best of his knowledge, three Americans arrived at the camp in October 1952 and departed three months later with about 20 Vlasov troopers (Soviet citizens who had served with the anti- Soviet general Vlasov on the German side in World War II). VORONIN stated that a camp orderly, Volodya KHRUSTALEV, told him that the Americans had departed with "the traitors." KHRUSTALEV later told VORONIN that the traitors had been shot but did not know the fate of the Americans. VORONIN suggested that KHRUSTALEV might be found in Moscow and would be in his early 60s. The camp commander, Sr. Lieut. (FNU) KUZENKOV, about 30 years of age at this time, might have more information. VORONIN stated that he spent an hour sawing logs with one of the Americans whom he described as being the tallest man in the camp at well over six feet, about 30 years old, with light hair and fair complexion, and gentle in appearance. The other two Americans he described as about 30 years old, five feet ten inches tall, and of dark complexion. All three were reputed to be flyers. No one knew any other details about them since none

of them could speak Russian. Ref 050135Z AUG 92

Action Taken and Recommended Follow-up: The Russian side will be requested to locate the whereabouts of camp orderly Volodya KRUSTALEV and Sr. Lieut. KUZENKOV in order to arrange follow-up interviews, which should be done bi-laterally.

3. On 5 August Grigory Mihalyovich CHUDAKOV, Editor-in-- Chief of the magazine, "Photografiya" was interviewed by COL Bill Saxe and Ms. Koltovich to discuss the search for the "Photo of Three". Mr. CHUDAKOV was given a copy of the additional material found in Cambodia concerning the photo, and he promised to spread the word among his photojournalist colleagues that the POW/MIA Team was looking for the original photo. Mr. CHUDAKOV provided the names of three additional photo archives

where the team might look and those will be contacted as the search continues. The Central Archive of Cinemaphotographic Documentation continues its search for the original photo in its archives as well, but with negative results so far. Ref 121657Z AUG 92

Action Taken and Recommended Follow-up: Moscow Team will check periodically to see if new information has been found.

4. On 7 August 1992, Gennady Nikolaevich PCHELNIKOV was interviewed in Moscow at Ilyinka 12 by Jim Connell and Al Graham. PCHELNIKOV had been a prisoner at Prison Camp ITL 385/7 in the Kovylinsk region of Mordova ASSR between 1957 and 1961. He asked to be interviewed after he heard a radio appeal for information on Americans in Russian prisons. He strongly believes that there were Americans in addition to Germans and Poles at this camp during his confinement, but he has no detailed first-hand knowledge of Americans and knew no names of American prisoners. PCHELNIKOV proposed in writing that he and other former prisoners he knows identify missing Americans from photos which TFR would provide. Unfortunately, he does not know the full names or whereabouts of those former prisoners. Ref 121708Z AUG 92

Action Taken and Recommended Follow-up: The POW/MIA Team in Moscow asked the Russian side if they had archival information on Americans held in Camp ITL 385/7 in Mordova during the period referred to by PCHELNIKOV. We have not yet received a reply.

5. On 11 August 1992, LTC Sergei Nikolayevich OSIPOV was interviewed at the Joint Commission Office in Moscow at Ilyinka 12 by COL Bill Saxe. The primary purpose of the meeting was to clarify the Russian response to the US request to publish the additional material provided by the Russians regarding the list of 39 names released by General Volkogonov on 31 July 1992. The following issues were also raised:

a. LTC OSIPOV raised the issue of the fate of the Soviet Navy Submarine 574 which sank in the Pacific Ocean in March 1968.

b. LTC OSIPOV said that the Russians hoped that by the next meeting of the Commission, the US side would have information on the nineteen former Soviet soldiers who served in Afghanistan and who are now living in the West as well as information on former Soviet soldiers held prisoner in Afghanistan.

c. LTC OSIPOV requested the US side to review a previously-passed list of Americans interned during World War II (see TF Russia's Initial Report, 17 July 1992 Document TFR 2-12 through TFR 2-21) and tell them which individuals returned home safely and which are still regarded as missing.

Action Taken and Recommended Follow-up: TFR is in the process of complying with this request.

d. Reference information on US citizen who were located on the territory of the FSU in the early 1950s, seven or eight in special prison camps and four in psychiatric hospitals, according to KGB archives, information has been found on two individuals: **SIDNEY RAY SPARKS,** released on 13 December 1955; and **"THOMAS SCOVIO"** (phonetic), who is listed as an Italian by nationality but who was a resident of Buffalo, NY. (Note: Mr. **SCOVIO**, who spent a number of years in the gulag, was eventually released and repatriated to the United States.) The Ministry of Health is also participating in the Commission's search and is searching the files of psychiatric hospitals. A verbal report was submitted stating that no American POWs are patients in Russian psychiatric hospitals. The Russian side is due a written report from its sources on 20 August 1992. Ref 111358Z AUG 92

6. On 13 August 1992 a Russian citizen was interviewed by Jim Connell and Al Graham. The source reported a Vietnam related live sighting dating from 1987. Ref. 141117Z AUG 92

Action Taken and Recommended Follow-up: This matter was referred to proper authorities for follow-up.

B. Interview with American citizen.

On 6 August 1992, LTC Pusey interviewed a retired US Army colonel, Jerome Ferris Lieblich, in Washington, DC. According to COL Lieblich, in the period from May to July 1945, he was told by a major (whose name he could not remember) that the Soviets were not repatriating all American servicemembers. He offered the information in response to recent media reports of the DoD efforts to account for US servicemembers.

Action taken and Recommended follow-up: None planned.

V. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY OR PASSED TO THE MOSCOW OFFICE

Batch TFR 11

GENERAL DESCRIPTION. In recent weeks Task Force Russia has received via the Moscow Office four letters from citizens of the former Soviet Union that provide information on the sighting of Americans in the Soviet Union. One letter discusses grave sites of American servicemen who died as POWs of Japan on one of the Kurile Islands. Another letter claims to have known a missing American civilian. The third letter is from a former prisoner who reports that he shared a prison cell with two American officers. And, finally, there is a note from a citizen of Uzbekistan pointing out that the 1989 census listed one American as living in his oblast.

TFR 11-1 through -4

a. Origin: This letter is dated 3 July 1992 and is from G.S. Volkov at Yunosheva Street 3, Apartment 220, Sevastopol, Ukraine.

b. Observation: G.S. Volkov reports that he worked at a construction site on Iturup Island in the Kurile Island chain from 1955 to 1957. on the island was an old air strip build by the Japanese during World War II using American POWs as laborers. A number of the Americans died as a result of the harsh treatment and are buried on the island. Mr. Volkov is willing to try to help find the graves.

c. Suggested Follow-up: This matter could pose an opportunity for our Moscow Office to follow up. While World War II is our fourth priority, we could nonetheless pursue this matter with the intent of possibly locating the burial sites that Mr. Volkov believes exist. Should we succeeded, this would provide a test case for us to establish a mechanism for the repatriation of US remains from Russia.

TFR 11-5 through -8

a. Origin: This letter is dated 21 July 1992 from an unidentified "**Izvestiia** Reader" in the city of Yekaterinburg in the Urals. The letter included a copy of an article from the 1 July 1992 issue of Izvestiia entitled "The Search for American MIAs Continues to the End of the Year" by Inga Prelovskaya.

b. Observation: In the attached **Izvestiia** article there is mention of an American V. Volegov who came to Russia in search of his long lost uncle M.F. Sdinkin. The anonymous author of the letter claims to have known a Mikhail Filant'yevich Sdinkin who is apparently still alive and well and an author of several books on Afghanistan. She does not know where Sdinkin is now, but she points to several books that he has written recently.

c. Suggested Follow-up: Consular officials should investigate this issue.

TFR 11-9 through -11

a. Origin: This letter is postmarked 26 July 1992 and is from Valentin Vasil'eviCh Sem'ko at Gurayam -- Street, 1/21, Apartment 55, Belousovo, Zhukovskii Rayon, Kaluzhkaya Oblast 249021.

b. Observation: V.V. Sem'ko claims that when he was in a transit prison in Orsha in December 1948 he

found himself in a cell with two American officers who claim that they were seized by the KGB in the Soviet Zone of occupied Berlin. Sem'ko can remember the name of only one officer - a Major **GOP-INS** [**HOPKINS**?] who was tall, blue-eyed, and then no older than 26. The second American was of medium height and probably a first lieutenant.

c. Suggested Follow-up: We will check US records for any unaccounted for American servicemen who meet the description of the above individuals. We also will request the Russian side to conduct a thorough investigation of pertinent records of camps in the area indicated.

TFR 11-12 through -16

a. Origin: This letter is dated 16 July 1992 and is from Kalilovna Islamova Dil'bar [?] at III m/r, Bldg 2, Apartment 40, Karluk, Uzbekistan 730000. The letter includes a clipping from **Kashkadarinskaya Pravda** 19 July 1990. The title of the article is unknown.

b. Observations: K.I. Dil'bar points out that an article from a 1990 issue of a local newspaper noted that the 1989 census listed one American as living in the local oblast.

c. Suggested Follow-up: Query consular officials for advice on how/whether to proceed with this instance.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

1. On 14 August 1992 Task Force Russia began the process of moving into new quarters in the Hoffman Building Complex in Alexandria, Virginia. This process will be completed during the week of 17 - 21 August 1992. The telephone numbers are (703) 325-1755, 1756, 1757, 1758. Our fax number is (703) 325-1759.

2. During the week of 10 - 14 August 1992, the strength of the Moscow Office of Task Force Russia increased as archivist Dick Jacobs, and historian Bill O'Malley arrived in Moscow. Also during this week, the Moscow Office was provided office space in the Old Embassy Building.

3. Major General Bernard Loeffke will become the Director of Task Force Russia on 20 August 1992.

4. By the week of 17-24 August, TF Russia's strength will reach twenty-one persons, including the Moscow Office, as our personnel report for duty.

5. The Task Force's funding ceiling for the remainder of FY 92 was raised by the Under Secretary of the Army from 300 (k) to 1.2 (m) dollars. Approximately 50% of this amount constitutes the investment required for our ADP support.

VII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Conclusions.

a. As of the end of the reporting period, no specific information has come to light indicating the presence of living POW/MIA personnel in Russia. In addition, we have not yet identified any specific unaccounted for US servicemembers in Russia or other states of the former Soviet Union. Some general information, however, is now being provided by the Russian side on deceased US military personnel from the Cold War or World War II who might be buried in the former Soviet Union. (Note: Our conclusions concerning unaccounted for servicemen are tentative, however, as our analysts have not yet completed the required cross-checking with US casualty archives that will enable us to state authoritative conclusions.)

b. Additionally, the Russian side is providing information on US citizens living on the territory or the former Soviet Union during the early 1950s. Subsequent research has shown that some of these individuals are still living in the former Soviet Union, others are buried there, and some are now living in

the United States. They are, however, outside the scope of the Joint Commission as the US side understands that scope. The Russians have stated that they consider the appropriate scope of the Commission to be all US citizens, POW/MIA or not. This is a matter of difference that should be addressed at the next September Commission meeting in Moscow.

c. There is some circumstantial evidence to suggest that there may be or may have been US military deserters residing in the former Soviet Union.

d. Interviews with nongovernmental Russian sources indicate that there might have been unaccounted for US military personnel in Soviet labor camps during the 1950s and 1960s.

2. Recommendations

a. That we work with the Russians to locate and interview those individuals who administered labor camps where Americans were reported to be held.

b. That the records of labor camps where Americans were reported to be held be examined. If these records are restricted or not yet declassified, we should request Russian cooperation to resolve this problem.

c. That the sources of information developed by the Ostankino Television Company on the presence of unaccounted for US servicemen be identified and investigated.

d. We should continuously press for specifics on the matter of deceased Americans who may be interred on Russian soil, in order that we fulfill the Commission's objective of repatriating their remains.

e. The US side should endeavor to satisfy Russian requests for MIA information such as Afghanistan or the Soviet submarine sinking. We must remember that genuine reciprocity is one of our means of maximizing success.

f. We should insure that our archivist/historian team of Mr. Jacobs and LTC O'Malley work with the Russians to impart order and system to the archive search which, to date, is haphazard and ineffective.

g. We should focus the Russian archival search to the maximum extent possible by providing the Russians specific cues to the information we seek. This will enhance the effectiveness of the hours devoted to the archival research, and state explicitly that our Moscow Office is not attempting an unrestricted "fishing expedition".

h. Once again, we must increase our Moscow Office's resolve to operate bi-laterally. Some interviews during the reporting period seem to have been conducted unilaterally. Colonel Ed Pusey, Moscow Office Chief, will arrive in Moscow on or about 1 September 1992. He will insure that the principle of joint operations is respected.

i. Finally, we ask that all Commission members and their staff respect the role of the Task Force Headquarters in the direction of the efforts of the Moscow Office. All communications with our team, or requests for its services, must be coordinated with the Task Force Headquarters in Washington if we are to operate effectively.